



Inland Empire

UTILITIES AGENCY*

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program August 19, 1999

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is a water management agency, who provides distribution of imported water, water resources management within the Chino groundwater basin and municipal/industrial wastewater collection and treatment service to seven cities and two water districts in the west-end of San Bernardino County. The Agency is located in one of the most rapidly growing regions in Southern California, and its now current service area population of 700,000 is estimated to increase to well over one million by the year 2020. To support this growth, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency is committed to addressing environmental concerns and protecting, conserving and reclaiming natural resources through several major programs, including groundwater management, water reclamation, and water conservation.

Key issues for the Agency are:

1. Drinking Water Quality and Salinity Targets. EPA's future drinking water quality standards may require significantly more expensive treatment of Delta water. Improvements to the Bay-Delta water supplies should protect the quality of drinking water supplies. In addition, the salinity of Delta exports vary widely and this has a significant balance impact on the Chino Basin and our ability to implement the Optimum Basin Management Plan and comply with the Santa Ana River Water Quality Control Board. WQ-7.1-1
2. Local Water Resources. CALFED is strongly supportive and recommending implementation of conservation, water recycling, and groundwater conjunctive-use storage programs to reduce exports from the Delta. The key issue is funding. State and federal grants are needed to make the Chino Basin area project cost-effective. IPF 5.4.1-5
3. Stage 1 Implementation. Is a seven-year process worth over \$100 million proposed for more technical studies on storage reservoirs in Northern California and Delta alternatives. Good science and objective policy evaluations need to be assured to maintain political of the process. PH2:3.6.1-5
PH2:4.2-4
4. Chino Basin Area Water Resources Strategy. The Santa Ana River Watershed activities and the Chino Optimum Basin Management Plan are critically linked to the statewide solution discussed in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Revised Draft.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is diligently working to solve our local salinity problems. In cooperation with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, construction has begun on the Chino Basin DeSalter Project, which is scheduled to be operational in March, 2000. Along with the Agency's Co-Composting facility, the DeSalter Project represents the Agency's second effort to begin the process of controlling and removing salt from the Chino Groundwater Basin.

A goal of the Agency is for the region to be entirely self sufficient during drought cycles, thus allowing more of the State's scarce water resources to be allocated to wildlife and agriculture during those times.

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